

A
L E T T E R
F R O M
K. Charls the Second,

Third Monarch of *Great Britain* ; to
Mr *Cawton*, late Minister of the English Church
in *Roterdam* , to be communicated to the rest of the
Ministers of the Reformed Churches in *Holland*
in Defence of Himselfe in matters
of Religion.

*Published upon the desire of Mrs. Cawton (widow of the late
Reverend Mr. Cawton deceased) with whom the Ori-
ginall, under Hand and Seal , is to be seen.*

L O N D O N,
Printed by *William wilson* for *Richard Lownds*, at the
white *Lion* in *St Paul's Church-yard*. 1 6 6 0.

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CHARLS R.



Rusty and Welbelov'd , We greet you well. We have received so full a testimony from Persons (to whom We give entire credit) of your good Affection to Our Person , and Zeal to Our Service , that We are willing to recommend an Affair to you , in which We are very much concerned.

We do not wonder, that the malice of Our Enemies should continue to lay all manner of scandalls upon Us , which might take away Our Reputation ; but that they should find, credit with any , to make Our Affection to the Protestant Religion in any degree suspected , is very strange ; since the world cannot but take notice of Our constant, and uninterrupted Profession and Exercise in it, in those Places , where the contrary Religion is onely practis'd and allowed. And though We do not boast of doing that , which we should be heartily ashamed if We did not do ; We may reasonably believe, That no man hath , or can more manifest his Affection to , and Zeal for, the Protestant Religion, than We have done , or, in some respects, hath more suff' red for it. And therefore We are the more sensibly affected , that those Calumnies can make impression, to Our disadvantage , in the minds of honest and pious men , as We are in-

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formed they have done. And We do the rather impart the sense We have of Our suffering in this particular to you, because, As you have the Charge of the *English* Congregation in *Roterdam*; So you cannot but have much conversation and acquaintance with the Ministers of the *Dutch* Church, and others in that populous place, with whom We would not suffer under so unjust and scandalous an Imputation. And We presume and expect from you, that you will use your utmost diligence and dexterity, to root out those unworthy Aspersions, so maliciously and groundlessly laid upon Us by wicked men; and that you assure all; who will give credit to you, that We value Our Self so much, upon that part of Our Title of being *Defender of the Faith*, that no worldly temptations can ever prevail with Us to swerve from It, and the Protestant Religion, in which we have been bred: the Propagation whereof we shall endeavour with Our utmost power. And as VVe shall never fail in the performance of Our Duty herein, so VVe shall take the Offices you shall do, in vindicating Us from these Reproaches, very well from you. In which, VVe promise Our self, you will serve Us effectually; And so VVe bid you Farewell. Given at Our Court at *Bruxells*, the seventh Day of *November*, 1658, in the tenth year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command.

EDWARD NICOLAS.

This

This Latin Translation of the fore-going English Letter, was sent from the King at the same time by Major Generall Massey, that it might be imparted by Mr. Cawton to the French and Dutch Ministers.



Ideli & Perdilecto, Salutem. Singulare tuum in Nos, resque nostras studium, multorum (quibus cumulata habemus fidem) testimonio comprobatum, facit, ut negotium tibi, quod unice ad Nos spectat, commendare in animum induxerimus. Quod Nos inimici Nostri omni probrorum genere, pro consuetâ malitiâ, quod existimationem Nostram convellant, onerare perseverent, haud quaquam miramur; illud præter spem atque incredibile accidit, inveniri potuisse aliquos, quibus Nostrum erga Religionem Protestantium affectum suspectum redderent; cum nulli ignota possit esse constans Nostra & nunquam interrupta ejusdem Professio & Exercitium, iis ipsis in locis ubi contraria tantum Religio viget & permittitur: Etsi verò Nos id egisse non gloriamur, quod prætermisisse maximè puduisset, hoc tamen verè licet dicere, neminem vel majorem affectum vel ardentius studium erga Religionem Protestantium testatum unquam, aut testari posse, aut hoc nomine plura perpeßum. Quare eò gravius ferimus, id accidere potuisse, ut calumniæ illæ multorum bonorum (quemadmodum certiores

certiores facti sumus) & piorum virorum animo occuparent , eosque à Nobis abalienarent : tib verò ideo præsertim sensus Nostros hac super injuria indicare volumus , quia , cum penes te sit *Anglicanae* Congregationis *Roterodami* regimen , fieri necesse est , ut cum multis Ecclesiæ Reformatae Ministris aliisque qui Celeberrimam illam Urbem incolunt , aut frequentant , sermones conferas ; in quorum animis infidere atroces ejusmodi & injustas suspiciones nolumus . Quare summani te diligentiam & operam adhibiturum confidimus , quò iniquæ illæ obtræctiones & improborum hominum Sycophantiæ resellantur , & ut in id sedulò incumbas , postulamus ; Omnes insuper quibuscum locutus fueris certos reddes , Nobis Titulum illum Nostrum *Defensoris Fidei* adeò esse cordi , ut nihil sit in humanis rebus tantum , quod Nos ad eum amittendum , aut à Religione Protestantium in quâ educati sumus , quàmque omni ope propagare conabimur , desciscendum pelliciat . Quemadmodum verò hac in re Officio Nostrò nunquam decrimus , ita studia tua in Nos ab opprobriis istis vindicando boni consulamus , sedulamque in eo navaturum te operam confidimus . Quod superest , plurimâ te salute impertimus . Dabantur in Aulâ Nostrâ *Bruxellensi* , die septimo *Novembris* , Anno Salutis 1658 . Regnique Nostri decimo .

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Memorandum, That Mr. Tho. Cawton, being Pastor of the Parish Church of Bartholomew behind the Exchange, was for severall months imprisoned in the Gatehouse, within a few days after the beheading of the late King, for praying openly for his Son, as King of Great Britain, &c. And being afterwards again in danger, about the time of Mr. Love's Suffering, he was forced, for the safeguard of his life, to flee into Holland, and was there Preacher to the English Church at Rotterdam. And hereupon his Majesty was pleased to write the above-printed Letter to the said Mr Cawton, and to send it to him by the hands of Major Generall Massey, purposely, that he might to the Dutch and French Ministers testifie his Constancy in the Protestant Religion. (And observable it is, that this was done Anno 1658. when there was not as yet the least appearance of hope for his being call'd back again into England.) As for the ascertaining of the undoubted truth of this Letter, it is judg'd requisite to make known, that Mrs. Cawton, the widow of the said Mr. Cawton, is now resident in London, with whom the Originall of the Letter is to be seen.

FINIS.